

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 00526 041422Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01

MCT-01 /094 W

-----041456Z 057812 /42

R 041352Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6764

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 0526

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MORG, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA'S DRAFT MEASURES DEFINED; REACTIONS FROM
BUSINESS IS NEGATIVE

REF: PRETORIA 0468

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTED ON FEBRUARY 2 THAT RHODESIAN GOVERN-
MENT ANNOUNCED NEW DRAFT PROCEDURES WHICH WERE PROMISED
EARLIER (REFTEL). ALL RHODESIANS ELIGIBLE FOR MILITARY UNDER
38 YEARS OF AGE ARE REQUIRED TO SERVE TWO CYCLES OF 96 DAYS
EACH ON ACTIVE DUTY PER YEAR. PREVIOUSLY THESE MEN WERE
OBLIGATED TO SIX TO 18-MONTH TOURS AND THEN SUBJECT TO
BRIEFER PERIODS UNDER THEIR ACTIVE RESERVE STATUS. AGE GROUP
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BETWEEN 38-50 WILL ALSO BE SUBJECT TO ACTIVE SERVICE BUT FOR
ONLY ONE 96-DAY TOUR PER YEAR.

2. LATER PRESS REPORTS THAT REACTION FROM BUSINESS GROUPS
HAS GROWN SINCE REFTTEL WITH PRESIDENT OF ASSOCIATION OF
RHODESIAN INDUSTRY OPENLY REJECTING LATEST CALL-UP PROCEDURES
AS NOT IN BEST INTEREST OF INDUSTRY, SECURITY FORCES OR COUNTRY

AS A WHOLE. HE STATED IT WOULD CAUSE "WIDESPREAD, SERIOUS AND EXTENSIVE DISLOCATION" IN COUNTRY'S INDUSTRY.

3. PRESS ALSO STATED THAT RHODESIAN FRONT PARTY HAD FULL CAUCUS--ALL 50 WHITE MP'S INCLUDING PM SMITH AND CABINET--ON FEBRUARY 3 TO DISCUSS NEW CALL-UP MEASURES. DEFENSE MINISTER COWPER WAS REPORTEDLY "GRILLED" BY HIS COLLEAGUES.

4. COMMENT: AS CALL-UP AND DEFERMENT PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN SLOWLY TIGHTENED UP OVER LAST SIX MONTHS, THERE HAS BEEN GREAT DEAL OF COMPLAINT FROM BOTH BUSINESS AND PRIVATE SECTOR. WITH COUNTRY AT VERGE OF ALMOST "TOTAL MOBILIZATION", AS ONE NEWS ACCOUNT PUT IT, THE ECONOMY COULD BE IN LINE FOR SERIOUS DISPLACEMENT. FACT THAT GOVERNING PARTY IS MEETING TO DISCUSS CALL-UP, WHICH WAS FOR FIRST TIME REFERRED TO AS "PROPOSALS" IN FEBRUARY 4 PRESS REPORT, MAY MEAN GOVERNMENT IS REALIZING IT HAS TAKEN A STEP TOO FAST AND TOO FAR FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTRY'S MORALE.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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